

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 081800Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY, US, UR

SUBJECT: GOG PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET NATIONAL DAY ACTIVITIES

1. SOVIET NATIONAL DAY ACTIVITIES IN GEORGETOWN WERE HELD SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR KOTENEV FROM 7-9 P.M. ON THE ROOF OF THE BANK OF GUYANA BUILDING. THE RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY HIGH LEVEL GOG PERSONAGES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT AND MRS. CHUNG, PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. BURNHAM, FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DESMOND HOYTE AND COMMANDER GDF PRICE. THE RECEPTION WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE, THE PRESS, AND MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS INCLUDING THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR. THE CUBAN EMBASSY WAS HEAVILY REPRESENTED AS EXPECTED ALONG WITH ENTIRE CUBAN DELEGATION ATTENDING THE JOINT GUYANA-CUBA TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC EDUCATION AND CULTURAL COOPERATION COMMISSION WHO ARE PRESENTLY

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MEETING IN GEORGETOWN.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER CAME EARLY AND STAYED LATE. HE SPENT MOST OF THE EVENING IN JOVIAL CONVERSATION WITH THE SOVIET AND CUBAN AMBASSADORS AND THEIR STAFFS AND CUBAN VISITORS REFERRED TO IN PARA 1.

3. DURING RECEPTION CHARGE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS. WILLS ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY NEWS ON CHARGE BLACKEN'S RETURN. CHARGE REPLIED NO. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN BEGAN TO DISCUSS GOG POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND GENEVA TALKS. THIS CONVERSATION BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL. WILLS ALSO MENTIONED HOPES THAT AFTER JANUARY 20 THERE WOULD BE A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION WILLS MENTIONED TO CHARGE THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD SENT SHORT BUT FRIENDLY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER PRESUMABLY THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH GOG HOPED THAT AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK OFFICE A "CIVILIZED DIALOGUE WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED MESSAGE WAS SENT SOMETIME SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7. MESSAGE WAS BRIEFLY REPORTED ON FRONT PAGE IN TODAY'S "CHRONICLE." OTHER UNOFFICIAL REACTION TO CARTER VICTORY BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.

4. TODAY'S CHRONICLE GAVE PROMINENT PLAN ON FRONT PAGE TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE. GIST OF MESSAGE WAS GOSU HOPED THAT PRESENT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WOULD STRENGTHEN AND GROW. TEXT OF MESSAGE CONTAINED MOST OF THE USUAL SOCIALIST PHRASEOLOGY RELATING TO THE GAINS OF THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE AND HOW MUCH IN COMMON BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND GUYANA HAVE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR QUOTE PEACE AND FREEDOM OF ALL PEOPLES AGAINST ALL FORMS OF COLONIALISM, RACISM AND HEGEMONIC INTERFERENCE UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS AND ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY SEARWAR WHO ALSO ATTENDED RECEPTION.
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TION GREETED SEVERAL EMBASSY OFFICERS WARMLY POINTEDLY MENTIONING THAT "MFA CONTINUED TO WORK TO KEEP THE LID ON." PRIME MINISTER COMPLETELY SNUBBED ONE EMBASSY OFFICER (RANDOLPH) AND WHILE HE SHOOK CHARGE'S HAND, NOTICEABLY LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHILE DOING SO AND WALKED AWAY WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER GUYANESE AT THE RECEPTION THAT LENGTH OF PRIME MINISTER'S

STAY AT THIS RECEPTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A
SIGNIFICANT SIGN. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED THOUGH
THAT PM APPEARED IN CONVIVIAL MOOD SINCE GOG HAS
HIGH HOPES FOR SIGNIFICANT SOVIET ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE RESULTING FROM THE RECENT VISIT OF THE
SOVIET ECONOMIC MISSION.
MCCOY

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